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OTHER BUSINESS

UN/IMO Diplomatic Conference on Arrest of Ships - G.A. resolution 52/182

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects, having completed the preparation of the draft articles for a convention on arrest of ships at its ninth Session in December 1996, recommended to UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board and the IMO Council to propose to the General Assembly of the United Nations the convening of a diplomatic conference to consider and adopt a convention on arrest of ships on the basis of the articles prepared by the Joint Group.

2. This recommendation was endorsed by the IMO Council at its seventy-eighth session and by the Board at its fifteen executive session. The General Assembly, by its resolution 52/182, endorsed the convening of the conference within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1998-1999.

3. Since the General Assembly did not specify the arrangements for the Conference, the Trade and Development Board may wish to be guided by the arrangments for the previous UN/IMO Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages, convened in Geneva in 1993 following General Assembly resolution 46/213. It is suggested that procedures similar to those adopted in respect of the previous UN/IMO Conference be followed in relation to the proposed Conference on Arrest of Ships, except for the duration of the Conference, which should be two weeks instead of three weeks.

4. It is therefore suggested that the arrangements for the UN/IMO Diplomatic Conference on Arrest of Ships be as follows:

(a) The Conference should be scheduled to be held in Geneva for a period of two weeks from 1 to 12 March 1999;

(b) The Secretaries-General of UNCTAD and IMO shall make the necessary arrangements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/182, to hold the Conference and to submit to the Conference all relevant documentation, including draft rules of procedure of the Conference, as well as to arrange for all required facilities for the Conference;

(c) The Conference will establish one main Committee to consider the entire substantive work of the Conference;

(d) The languages of the Conference will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

5. The Board may wish to endorse these proposed arrangements.